



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

October 31, 2007

TO: School Administrators

In early 2007 the DESE staff, with assistance from groups of Missouri educators, began the process of updating the grade-level expectations (GLEs). The working groups used current documents from several content-related organizations (English, mathematics, etc.) to update the language and structure of the GLEs and to develop course-level expectations (CLEs) for selected subjects.

Proposed editions ("version 2.0") of the Missouri grade-level and course-level expectations for each content area were posted on the DESE Web site over the last five months for feedback. The final 2.0 version of the GLEs/CLEs will be posted for school districts' use on November 5, 2007.

During the 2007 legislative session, Senate Bill 389 (a major higher education bill) was passed and signed by Governor Blunt. The legislation requires public postsecondary institutions to identify agreed-upon "entry-level competencies" for each content area by next year. This law also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to eventually align the state assessments with those entry-level competencies. At the same time, the Mathematics, Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) Coalition is working with DESE to identify K-12 learning goals in math and science.

For your information, state tests over the next three years will be given as follows:

- **2007-08:** Current MAP tests in math and communication arts will be given in grades 3-8, grade 10 math and grade 11 communication arts. Also, the MAP science exams will be given in grades 5, 8 and 11.
- **2008-09:** Current MAP tests in math, communication arts and science will be given in grades 3-8. End-of-course tests in algebra I, English II and biology will be given in high school based on version 2.0 GLEs.
- **2009-10:** Grade-level tests in grades 3-8 will be given in math, communication arts and science based on version 2.0 GLEs. The second tier of end-of-course tests (algebra II, geometry, integrated math II or III, English I, American government, American history, and biology) will be based on the 2.0 GLEs.

Many changes are occurring as a result of the development of end-of-course tests for selected high school subjects as well as the mandates in Senate Bill 389. We realize this creates questions for many. We will try to keep you well-informed about developments in this area and their implications for curriculum and assessment. We appreciate your work and your continuing involvement in the design of a high-quality assessment program for Missouri students.

Sincerely,

Michael Muenks, Coordinator